

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

receiving data indicative of a gaming unit on which a player has chosen to play a selected one or more games in a tournament, wherein the chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more selected games in the tournament and gaming software for the one or more selected games is not stored on the chosen gaming unit when the data is received;

~~determining whether the chosen gaming unit is configured for playing the one or more games in the tournament;~~

~~obtaining the gaming software for the one or more selected games and configuration data for configuring the chosen gaming machine for playing the selected one or more games in the tournament when it is determined that said chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more games in a tournament, wherein the gaming software can effectively configure the chosen gaming unit for playing the one or more games in a tournament; and~~

~~after the player has chosen the gaming unit, loading the gaming software for the one or more selected games and the configuration data to the chosen gaming unit, when it is determined that the chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more games in the tournament; thereby effectively configuring the chosen gaming machine for participation in the tournament play of the one or more selected games and enabling the player to use the chosen gaming machine to play the one or more games in the tournament.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein loading gaming software to the chosen gaming unit comprises transmitting the gaming software to the gaming unit via a network.

4. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein loading gaming software to the chosen gaming unit comprises loading the gaming software from at least one of a floppy disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD, a PC card, a smart card, and a portable memory device.
5. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, further comprising confirming that the gaming software was loaded to the gaming unit successfully.
6. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, further comprising authenticating the gaming software after loading the gaming software to the gaming unit.
7. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein the gaming software comprises an executable file.
8. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein the gaming software comprises a configuration file.
9. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein the gaming software comprises a data file.
10. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein the gaming software comprises a pay table.
11. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, wherein the gaming software comprises a plurality of seeds for a random number generator to be implemented by the gaming unit.
12. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 11, further comprising randomly or pseudo-randomly generating the plurality of seeds.
13. (Original) A gaming method according to claim 1, further comprising, if a plurality of winning players are determined, generating data indicative of a plurality of respective value payouts to be awarded to the plurality of winning players, wherein the plurality of respective value payouts comprises a plurality of shares of a jackpot.

14. (Currently Amended) A tournament server, comprising:

a network interface operatively coupled to a network;
a controller operatively coupled to the network interface, the controller comprising a processor and a memory operatively coupled to the processor, the controller configured to:

receive, via the network interface, data indicative of a gaming unit on which [[the]] a player has chosen to play one or more games in a tournament wherein the gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more games in the tournament, and gaming software for the one or more games is not stored on the chosen gaming unit when the data is received; and

after the player has chosen the gaming unit, load the gaming software for the one or more games to the chosen gaming unit ~~when it is determined that the chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more games in the tournament;~~ thereby effectively configuring the chosen gaming machine for participation in the tournament ~~play of the one or more games and~~ enabling the player to use the chosen gaming machine to play the one or more games in the tournament.

15. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to:

determine whether the chosen gaming unit is already configured for playing in the tournament; and

load gaming software to the chosen gaming unit only if the gaming unit is not already configured for playing in the tournament.

16. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to confirm that the gaming software was loaded to the gaming unit successfully.

17. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to authenticate the gaming software loaded to the gaming unit.

18. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the gaming software comprises an executable file.

19. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the gaming software comprises a configuration file.

20. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the gaming software comprises a data file.

21. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the gaming software comprises a pay table.

22. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the gaming software comprises a plurality of seeds for a random number generator to be implemented by the gaming unit.

23. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 22, wherein the controller is further configured to randomly or pseudo-randomly generate the plurality of seeds.

24. (Original) A tournament server according to claim 14, wherein the controller is further configured to transmit a plurality of indicators of outcomes of games to the gaming unit.

25-34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a fee from a player to play in a tournament;
determining a winning player of the tournament, if any; and
if the winning player of the tournament is determined, generating data indicative of a value payout to be awarded to the winning player.

36. (Previously Presented) A tournament server as recited in claim 35, wherein the controller is further configured to:

receive a fee from a player to play in a tournament;
determine a winning player of the tournament, if any; and
if the winning player of the tournament is determined, generate data indicative of a value payout to be awarded to the winning player.

37. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer program code, wherein said computer readable medium comprises:

computer program code for receiving data indicative of a gaming unit on which a player has chosen to play a selected one or more games in a tournament, wherein the chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more selected games in the tournament and the gaming software for the one or more selected games is not stored on the chosen gaming unit when the data is received;

~~computer program code for determining whether the chosen gaming unit is configured for playing the one or more games in the tournament;~~

computer program code for obtaining the gaming software for the one or more selected games and configuration data for configuring the chosen gaming machine for playing the selected one or more games in the tournament, wherein the gaming software can effectively configure the chosen gaming unit for playing the one or more games in a tournament; and

~~computer program code for causing loading of gaming software for the one or more games when it is determined that said chosen gaming unit is not configured for playing the one or more games in a tournament, wherein the gaming software can effectively configure the chosen gaming unit for playing the one or more games in a tournament; thereby effectively configuring the chosen gaming machine for participation in the tournament play of the one or more games and enabling the player to use the chosen gaming machine to play the one or more games in the tournament~~

computer program code for loading the gaming software for the one or more selected games and the configuration data to the chosen gaming unit, thereby effectively configuring the chosen gaming machine for participation in the tournament play of the one or more selected games and enabling the player to use the chosen gaming machine to play the one or more games in the tournament.